

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the manufacture of a composite material (M) comprising a stage (E) according to which drying a dispersion (D) comprising :

- (a) at least one polymer,
- (b) at least one lamellar compound, and
- (c) at least one dispersing liquid,

~~is dried~~ by atomization.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer is a halogenated polymer.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 2, wherein the halogenated polymer is obtained by a polymerization process chosen from ~~the aqueous microsuspension polymerization process and the aqueous emulsion polymerization process.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the dispersion comprises a lamellar compound ~~is~~ chosen from smectites and Laponite® synthetic layered silicate clays.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the dispersion (D) additionally comprises (d) at least one surface-active agent.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, ~~comprising a stage (E') of preparation of the dispersion (D), prior to stage (E), according to which~~ wherein the

dispersion (D) is prepared by blending a first dispersion (A) comprising (a), a portion of (c) and, if appropriate, (d) optionally, a surface-active agent with a second dispersion (B) comprising (b) and the balance of (c).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the dispersion (D) additionally comprises (e) at least one peptizing agent.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, ~~comprising at least one stage (E')~~, ~~subsequent to stage (E)~~, ~~according to which the further comprising treating the composite material is treated so as to adjust the morphology thereof~~.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said drying is carried out with compressed air.

Claim 16 (New): The process according to Claim 15, wherein the temperature of incoming air used for the drying is greater than or equal to 140 °C and less than or equal to 210 °C and wherein the temperature of air exiting from the drying is greater than or equal to 55 °C and less than or equal to 90 °C.

Claim 17 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one polymer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of fluoropolymers, chloropolymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (New): The process according to Claim 17, wherein said at least one polymer comprises a vinylidene fluoride polymer.

Claim 19 (New): The process according to Claim 17, wherein said at least one polymer comprises a vinyl chloride polymer.

Claim 20 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said drying is turbine atomization.

Claim 21 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said drying is atomization with compressed air through two-fluid nozzles.

Claim 22 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said drying is atomization by compression-pressure reduction using nozzles with a fluid.

Claim 23 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said dispersion comprises:

(a) between 8 and 70% of said at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of a vinylidene fluoride polymer, a vinyl chloride polymer, and mixtures thereof, expressed as % by weight of polymer with respect to the weight of the dispersion,

(b) 0.001 to 20% of said at least one lamellar compound, expressed as % by weight of lamellar compound in the dry state with respect to the weight of polymer in the dry state, and

(c) between 30 and 90% of said at least one dispersing liquid, expressed as % by weight of dispersing liquid with respect to the weight of the dispersion.

Claim 24 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said dispersion comprises:

(a) between 8 and 70% of said at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of a vinylidene fluoride polymer, a vinyl chloride polymer, and mixtures thereof, expressed as % by weight of polymer with respect to the weight of the dispersion,

(b) 0.01 and 10% of said at least one lamellar compound, expressed as % by weight of lamellar compound in the dry state with respect to the weight of polymer in the dry state, and

(c) between 40 and 80% of said at least one dispersing liquid, expressed as % by weight of dispersing liquid with respect to the weight of the dispersion.

Claim 25 (New): The process according to Claim 1, further comprising, after drying, forming a plastisol.

Claim 26 (New): The process according to Claim 1, further comprising, after drying, bringing the polymer to a temperature greater than or equal to its melting point or gelling temperature.